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**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **HYDROMETALLURGICAL PROCESSING OF MANGANESE CONTAINING MATERIALS**, the specification of which ☒ was filed on July 09, 2004, as United States Application Serial No. 10/501,277 and was amended on July 09, 2004.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (a)-(d) or (f), or 365 (b), of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below, and I have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority claimed

<u>PCT/AU 03/01295</u> (Number)	<u>WIPO</u> (Country)	<u>01 October 2003</u> Day/month/year filed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>2002952042</u> (Number)	<u>Australia</u> (Country)	<u>10 October 2002</u> Day/month/year filed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint, jointly and severally, all of the practitioners associated with **Customer Number 22440** as my attorneys and/or agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Direct all correspondence and telephone calls to Jeffrey M. Kaden at the address and telephone number associated with the Customer Number identified above.

Full name of sole or first inventor

Christopher Brett WARD

Inventor's Signature

Date

9th August 2004

Residence

19 Palmer Street, Attadale, Western Australia 6156

Citizenship

Australian

Post Office Address

Same